

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

OIC-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3733

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, UN, PFOR

SUBJ: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: UN ADMINISTRATION: INTERPRETERS

TO ON 24-HOUR STRICK

SUMMARY: UN INTERPRETERS CALLED 24-HOUR STRIKE TUESDAY, BUT SKELETON INTERPRETER STAFF AVAILABLE TO SERVICE THREE OUT OF 12 SCHEDULED MEETINGS. AS OF COB TUESDAY, WE EXPECT NORMAL SCHEDULE TO BE RESUMED WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24. END SUMMARY

1. ON APRIL 23, INTERPRETER SERVICE WAS PROVIDED FOR MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE OF SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION AND SERVICE WAS AVAILABLE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, WHICH WAS POSTPONED FOR OTHER REASONS. NO INTERPRETER SERVICE WAS AVAILABLE FOR (A) GA PLENARY-MEETINGS (B) WORKING PARTY OF AD HOC COMMITTEE (C) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF COMMITTEE ON PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (D) WORKING GROUP ON CURRENCY INSTABILITY OR (E) SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF ECOSOC.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SECRETARIAT SOURCES THAT AT BEGINNING OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY SESSION INTERPRETER STAFF WAS OFFERED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES OVER PREVIOUS REMUNERATION. PERMANENT INTERPRETER STAFF RECEIVED NO INCREASE

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AND COMPLAINED OF UNFAIR SALARY AND WORKLOAD TREATMENT.

3. PERMANENT STAFF DECIDED TO BE ABSENT ON 24-HOUR SICK LEAVE AND TEMPORARY STAFF AGREED TO SUPPORT THIS ACTION, AFTER ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO SERVICE TWO MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED MOST OF TUESDAY AND SECRETARIAT SOURCES UNWILLING TO DISCLOSE TERMS OF OFFER, IF ANY. AS OF COB TUESDAY, SOURCES EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT NORMAL MEETING SCHEDULE WILL BE RESUMED APRIL 24.

4. FINAL TWO SESSIONS OF GENERAL DEBATE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY. GENERAL DEBATE THUS NOW EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE WEDNESDAY. SCALI

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